

JAMES Heating Oil, Inc.

326 Derby Avenue ~ Derby, CT 06418

Phone (203) 736-2566

Fax (203) 732-4070

March 10, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the proposed legislation that would create a "guaranty fund" to protect consumers who pre-buy fuel contracts from their respective fuel dealers.

As a small business owner, I feel that such legislation would create severe hardship for Connecticut's small fuel oil and propane dealers. It is especially unfair to those of us who DO NOT offer such pre-buy contracts. Small dealers do not have the resources to offer such plans. As it is, we lose customers because we cannot financially compete with the companies that do. It is terribly unfair to ask us to shoulder the burden if these companies cannot honor the contracts which they have sold. You should make it mandatory that the companies who sell the pre-buy contracts purchase enough insurance to cover such contracts in the event of company bankruptcy, or have them -and only-them- fund the guaranty fund. Don't punish all of us for the risky business practices of a few. I run my business conservatively, and won't be responsible for my competitor's mistakes.

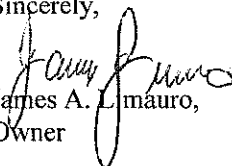
As a family-owned business, I cannot afford to pay \$3,900. Nor is it fair to expect me to do so in order to bail out my competitors! As it is, the cost to do business in this state has gone up considerably. You've already raised the taxes on the diesel fuel required to run our trucks. You've already doubled the costs of our licenses. Putting another financial burden on us will be putting another nail in the coffin of this industry.

And what about the tank fund? Now up to 8.81%...that money doesn't even go into a 'tank fund' any more. You ask for \$3,900 now, and \$500 annually thereafter. How much will you want ten years from now? Everybody knows that this is just another way to bolster the General Fund.

Please do not adopt SB 299. Instead, please work with CEMA to ensure that Connecticut's consumers are protected by those who they DIRECTLY do business with, NOT by those innocent of any wrong doing.

I plead with you to please leave our small businesses out of this equation. If this law is adopted, many of us will be forced to close our doors. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,


James A. Limauro,
Owner

www.jamesheatingoil.com

jamesoil@att.net